★ **INSIDE: FULL PSL LOW-DOWN** ★ **SQUADS**

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NEW SEASON WITH FRESH HOPES

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE AUSTRALIA

—By Andrew Dettre—

Having been established, accepted and then consolidated in its initial three years, Australia's Philips League this week begins its fourth exciting orbital run.

Let us all wish it well. Only the most deranged in our midst can do anything else.

If the first three years proved anything, it was the fact that Australia does need and can cope with a national competition.

Differences of opinion do exist as to the best way of handling the League—but this is natural. Soccer and sport as a whole, often triggers heated debates even among its most ardent fans.

Our soccer is made up of so many tiny fragments and multi-colored mosaics that such debates will be always part of the scene. Neither the ASF nor the PSL clubs should take well-meaning criticism to heart too much; in a free society all opinions can be accommodated.

It's certainly not "unpatriotic" to state facts; it's surely not malicious or prejudiced to express views contrary to those held by officials, provided these are aimed at making our game so much better.

The PSL is our premier competition; if it prospers, the game at all levels benefits.

It's not the "them-and-us" syndrome but a united effort that will make Soccer a truly national game here.

This is the intelligent, adult and admirable stance adopted in all developed states overseas — but not in Australia. Not yet, anyway.

It's pleasing to see that our administration is spending so much time, effort and money on the national team—our window to the world.

But is must never lose sight of the fact that without a strong Philips League, without well run clubs and their well trained players, there is no real national team of any balance or even any true purpose. We don't want to do a North Korea, whatever the pay-offs may be.

So it's logical that in every major consideration, in all demarcation disputes, the PSL clubs must receive every possible preference.

One can only hope that this policy will characterise in 1980 the attitudes and actions of all those entrusted with the future of the game in Australia.

In such happy event, not only the Philips League will reap the benefits and not only the various States will enjoy the inevitable spin-offs but our national team will also be based on strong clubs which take pride and pleasure in standing behind the Socceroos rather than developing a perilous and unhealthy resentment towards its programs and exploits.

Support the company that supports soccer

TV DEAL "CERTAIN"

It looks 95% certain now that this year's Philips League matches will be televised regularly.

Jim McMullen, representative of the West Nally Group negotiating for a TV package, told the PSL Council of Clubs meeting last Saturday that all four networks were interested in a TV package.

He said it was even possible that the package — including PSL matches, the 1981 Youth World Cup and overseas internationals — would be split and shared by two networks.

2 TO 6

Conducted by Val Hokin and Emmanuel Kanna

Liverpool Rangers (6th Div.) have appointed Mick Lalic as coach for this season with Mark Russell as his assistant. The team played a trial last weekend against Revesby Lions with two draws; 2nd grade was 0-0 and 1st grade 3-3 after being down 1-3 at half time. Scorers for the Rangers were Mark Weston, Luke Morritte and Steven Horna (penalty).

□ □ □

Fairfield West (5th Div.) played another trial last weekend against Liverpool Utd. The large score for Wests didn't detract from United's efforts as they fought every moment of the games, using the matches as tests trying out many new players which, though helping the coach in his job of selection, did affect team cohesion. Wests won both matches 6-1 with the scorers being Peter Ashby (3), Fred March, Paul Watchman and Jim McTaggett in the late game and in second grade, Peter Davies (2), David Stonach, Paul Crowe, George MacMillan and Fred Leggett. Three West's players at present on a six-week holiday are Eddy Williams, Steve Williams and Steve Sroude but expect to return for the start of the premiership.

□ □ □

Kingsford (3rd Div.) had its first trial game last weekend against 2nd and 3rd grade teams of Sydney Olympic. The results were a 1-1 draw for 1st grade and a 0-1 loss for the 2nd grade. The club's two federation sides together with another four junior teams will be travelling to the Central Coast next weekend to play against Umina.

□ □ □

East St.Andrews (4th Div.) coach, Eddy Fryar must have been very pleased with the performance of his team when they met Mt. Pritchard in a trial match. Eastwood won the 1st grade 6-2 and drew 0-0 in second grade. What is more impressive is that the Eastwood side had 47 players being tried out.

□ □ □

Fairfield Kiev (4th Div.) have secured a generous sponsorship for its 1st grade. Onis Motors will be footing the bill for one year and negotiations for a sponsor for the 2nd grade are still in progress.

□ □ □

Padstow Park (4th Div.) have appointed Gary Moore as 1st grade coach. Gary who was the club's 2nd grade coach last year is also a player for the side. In a trial game against Concordia, Padstow won both grades 6-1 and 2-0. Padstow have received some devastating news from the Bankstown District Soccer Club, the owners of the Soccer Centre, home ground of Padstow for many years. Bankstown has asked a fee of $250 a game (equivalent to a whole season's fee in '79).

UMBRO CUP

Lethbridge Rangers v Port Hacking 1-0

The Rangers scored the only goal of the match 8 minutes after kick-off with a fine header from Eric Hedges. In a mediocre game the finishing was poor by both sides for the remainder of the match leaving the Rangers with the two points for their early goal. Lethbridge squandered any chances they had and Port Hacking gave all they had but found the task beyond them to pull a goal back after a hard match the previous day in the second division play-off.

Dee Why v West Ryde Rovers 2-1

Dee Why put the first goal on the board with a header by Peter Firth in the 20th minute. West Ryde came back straight away after a goalmouth scramble with a deflection from Ian Miller to make it 1-1 at halftime. Both teams had numerous shots, all of which failed to reach the net. The second half saw Dee Why, with the advantage of only one match on the weekend, find renewed vigour, attacking the West Ryde goal and Greg Patterson scored to take the points for Dee Why.

Yagoona v North Bankstown 2-1

Once again a match not noted for quality football but rather an open game with inaccurate passing and poor forward finishing. Yagoona scored twice by Brett Gilligan and Keith Brown (penalty). North Bankstown's defender, Garry Rudd made it 2-1.

Gladesville Hornsby v Campbelltown City 2-1

Campbelltown scored early with a fine goal by David Shepherd and led until midway through the second half. The City seemed to lose concentration on which Gladesville capitalised to score twice and take the points.

Umbro Cup fixtures:

Sunday, March 9: Lane Cove v Port Hacking, 3pm, Ted Horwood Reserve; Baulkham Hills v West Ryde Rovers 1.15pm, Ted Horwood Reserve; Guildford County v North Bankstown 3pm, Guildford Park; Marrickville v Campbelltown City 1.15pm, Guildford Park.

Sunday, March 16: Lethbridge Rangers v Lane Cove 3pm, Jersey Road; Dee Why v Baulkham Hills 1.15pm, Jersey Road; Yagoona v Guildford County 3pm, Guildford Park; Gladesville-Hornsby v Marrickville 1.15pm, Guildford Park.

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CLUB PATROL

Olympic have a new addition to their already strong first team squad. He is GUSTODIO FRANCESCA VARGAS MENDOZA a 28-year-old libero from Peru. The club is still waiting for Mendoza's clearance from the Peruvian FA, and then he will be used in the team as soon as possible.

★ ★ ★

A popular birthday boy at Inter Monaro this week is CRAIG LEITH. The second grader has played a few games in the first team where he has impressed officials. Craig joined Monaro from Canberra City a couple of years ago. He turned 18 on Wednesday.

★ ★ ★

Olympic's GRAHAM JENNINGS has recovered from his injury and should resume training soon. In fact club officials predict he will be ready for team selection by round two of the competition.

★ ★ ★

JULIUS FUZESSY long time and popular chef at the St.George club restaurant died suddenly last week.

★ ★ ★

Amidst all the seeming affluence...it turns out that various clubs owe a total of some $70,000 to the PSL for various charges, including 1980 membership fees...

★ ★ ★

Readymix has come to the aid of Inter Monaro again with cash sponsorship. The concrete giants have also provided the club with new strip and tracksuits for the first team.

★ ★ ★

Official feeling within Inter Monaro is that the reduction of the Giampaolo — Valeri transfer fee, although by a total of $12,000, was reasonable in the end. The club is pleased with the way the NSW Federation stood by them in the battle with Canberra. They are also pleased that the matter was finally resolved, for after all they were as unhappy as anyone else that the two players weren't getting the chance to play soccer. The final transfer fee, paid by Canberra last Friday afternoon, was $40,000 for both Sebastian Giampaolo and Walter Valeri.

★ ★ ★

Auburn have signed former Yugal midfielder CHARLIE PRGOMELJA. Charlie was also with Manly for a while last year.

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

Former Leichhardt stalwart for many years, Cliff Van Blerk has been appointed coach of Leichhardt's first division side this season.

Van Blerk, who played as a fullback for the then APIA has taken over a very young but promising bunch of youngsters some of whom played under-16 football last season.

Although there were quite a few talented youngsters in the side last year, it is unlikely that any of them will play PSL football this season.

However, players like Laws, Dalton, Gaitatsis and Lawson will again be trying for the club.

Melita officials are still hoping to have visiting Maltese Government minister AGATHA BARBARA as a guest at the Bankstown match on Sunday. Mrs. Barbara said that while in Australia she would like to get involved in the activities of the Maltese community, and what better way than to go to a soccer match.

★ ★ ★

Olympic's KEN WILSON has shrugged off his injury and should resume training within a week.

★ ★ ★

Inter Monaro have re-signed PETER LAWLER, their talented midfielder from 1978 who spent 12 months overseas last year.

★ ★ ★

STATE GOES BETTER WITH COKE'S $65,000

You can open a bottle of champagne now — the soft-drink war is over.

The NSW Federation has received a massive new sponsorship from Coca-Cola Bottlers.

Its value exceeds $65,000 a year — and the agreement runs for at least three years.

In 1978 the Federation was sponsored by Rothmans, in 1979 by Pepsi Cola.

The financial aid comes in a carefully devised package and involves:

1. Funding to the NSW Federation for the promotion of the Coca-Cola Bottlers State League.

2.(a) A Holden family sedan,to be won by a spectator at the State League Grand Final. Each week, adult spectators at State League, First Division and Second Division matches, will receive a numbered ticket. A regular supporter could have up to 30 chances to win the car.

2.(b) Each week, at each Coca-Cola Bottlers State League match, adult patrons will have an opportunity to win five double tickets to any Village cinema.

3. The Coca-Cola Bottlers State League — Player of the Year will receive a Holden family sedan.

4. Youth Soccer Scholarships will be launched; it is intended to bring to Australia a top international coach who will work in conjunction with our own State Coach in a program which includes in-camp coaching for selected 15-18 year olds and evening discussion sessions with our club coaches.

5. Assistance for Federation clubs with ground and clubroom signs, ball boys' uniforms, etc.

6. Provisions of trophies for the Coca-Cola Bottlers State League and player medallions.

7. Sundry promotional assistance for the NSW Federation of Soccer Clubs.

NSW Federation president Karl Rodny said he was delighted with the arrangements.

"I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Sydney Coca-Cola Bottlers for their support, and for the confidence they have shown in the NSW Federation of Soccer Clubs by their sponsorship of our State League Competition," he said.

FIRST DIVISION

— By Charles Spiteri —

The failure by PSL clubs to get the much discussed Youth League running with the PSL competition has prompted Marconi to use the first division "wholly and solely" as a nursery for the PSL team.

In a sweeping new policy, the club is aiming for a side with all the players under 20 years of age.

One club official said this week: "It is a waste of time and money keeping players over the age of 20 years knowing they will not advance any further.

"Players in this team must have the ability to be promoted into the PSL side in future," he said.

Luciano Nesti, who looked after this division for Marconi for some years, will again be coaching the first division and manager of the team will be Fred Mason-Wells.

Three of last season's youngsters have been training and playing for the PSL team this season: Denis Colusso, Drago Tomasich and Ritchie Williams.

Although the first division squad is not yet finalised, Marconi is expected to field a much stronger team than last year.

Players who are likely to make the squad include Brian Stark, W. Mason-Wells, Michael Fogarty, Paul Scheinflug, Tony Vinieri and Peter De Lamonte.

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Les, 665 1669 (home.)

Doug, 20944 ext. 2117 (bus.),

713 8565 (home).

SOCCER WORLD

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ALL ABOUT THE 14 PSL CLUBS AND THEIR PROSPECTS

This composite feature on the prospects of the 14 PSL clubs was written by Alan Crisp (Adelaide), Jim Binnie (Brisbane), Peter Desira (Melbourne), Peter Kunz (Canberra), Myles Hay (Newcastle) and Andrew Dettre (Sydney).

The points covered in respect of the 14 PSL teams are:
1. Is the squad stronger or weaker than in 1979?
2. Is the management, coaching set-up and financial support different from last year's?
3. Has the team prepared well or well enough for the season?
4. Is the team likely to finish higher or lower than in 1979?
5. Who are the players in the squad?

MARCONI

Mark Jankovics

(1) The arrival of Peter Raskopoulos has made this immensely powerful squad even stronger than last year.

The only worrying aspect is the frequent unfitness of Vieri and the recent but potentially troublesome injuries of Henderson and Jankovics.

On the other hand, young Brogan will now be a more mature regular and Mariani will keep the star strikers on their toes.

It's hard to fault the overall strength of this squad: if they have an Achilles-heel, it's in their central defence where both their stopper (Russell) and freeback (Prskalo) are strongly left-foot oriented.

The Krncevic — Jankovics — Sharne partnership is likely to develop even further and become the deadliest in the PSL.

(2) No great changes here except the addition of a knowledgeable secretary-manager in Milorad Urukalo.

Les Scheinflug and Tony Labbozzetta run the team in harmony and with strong support from the "mother club."

Marconi claim to have broken even in 1979 just from gate takings and other soccer revenues without dipping into the club's coffers.

If they can generate the same 5,000-8,000 crowds again, they should even slip into the black.

(3) There is no doubt that the team's preparations have suffered a severe dislocation due to many of their players having been called up for various national team duties.

Because of this, some (Sharne, Krncevic, Degney), might have hit peak form a trifle too soon while others (Prskalo, Henderson, Jankovics) have suffered various injuries.

Les Scheinflug, no doubt, realises the risks involved in "peaking out" too soon and has, in the last two weeks or so, paced the team's preparations accordingly.

Gary Byrne's employment problems have affected his form but he will have to produce his best now with Raskopoulos fighting for a place in the team.

(4) They certainly can't finish higher — but are unlikely to finish lower either.

In fact, Marconi must start hot favorites to win the 1980 Philips League championship once again, possibly by a comfortable margin.

The only danger looms not so much from their rivals but from over-use of their stars by the various representative teams.

Flattering as it may be to provide so many players for the Australian team, Marconi won't feel like sacrificing their chances on the national altar.

(5) Squad: Alan Maher (1), Ron Corry (20), Peter Brogan (2), Paul Degney (3), John Russell (4), Ivo Prskalo (5), Tony Henderson (6), Gary Byrne (7), Roberto Vieri (8), Mark Jankovics (9), Bertie Mariani (10), Peter Sharne (11), Eddie Krncevic (12), Stuart Selvage (13), Ken Lindsay (14), Peter Raskopoulos (15).

HOW DID THEY FINISH BEFORE?

All the PSL placings of 1977-1979 and the clubs' averages:

	77	78	79	Aver.
Sydney City	1	2	3	2.00
Marconi	2	4	1	2.33
Heidelberg	3	5	2	3.33
Adelaide City	4	10	5	6.33
W.Suburbs	5	9	—	7.00
St.George	6	7	11	8.00
W. Adelaide	7	1	7	5.00
Footscray	8	12	10	10.00
Bris. Lions	9	6	9	8.00
Bris. City	10	14	4	9.33
South Melb.	11	3	14	9.33
Olympic	12	8	13	11.00
Canberra	13	13	12	12.66
Mooroolbark	14	—	—	14.00
Newcastle	—	11	6	8.50
APIA	—	—	8	8.00

HEIDELBERG

(1) Theo Selemides and Andy Bozikas are being given the chance to establish themselves as regulars following the departure of Ken Taylor (to Scotland) and Branko Buljevic (to Sth.Melbourne).

Selemides has been impressive in the Ampol Cup and was recently with the Australian squad in Noumea so he is expected to do well.

The club has avoided the transfer market and the only new faces in the side have been three youngsters from the club's second division team — John Kiriakidis (a Metro Div.2 "Best and Fairest"), Con Moulas and George Pavlidis.

Another promising youngster, Charlie Yankos, played four matches in the Ampol Cup in midfield.

Because of the lack of depth in reserve, the side must be considered weaker than last season.

Gary Cole

(2) Heidelberg has lost coach Manny Poulakakis to State League club Juventus and is having trouble finding a suitable replacement.

English FA coach John Adams and Victorian State coach Len McKendry have both knocked back an invitation.

The duo of Jimmy Rooney and Pat Bannon will start the season in charge as caretaker coaches until the club makes a permanent appointment.

The club's financial situation is rumoured to be far from healthy but it can always count on good support.

The ground promised by the Heidelberg council at the Olympic site is a long way from completion yet.

(3) Heidelberg reached the Ampol Cup Final after beating Frankston (1-0) Altona (3-1) Green Gully (3-0) and Footscray (3-1).

It dominated possession in the final yet failed to convert superiority into goals.

Its preparation must be considered adequate though not sensational.

(4) It's a tall order for Heidelberg to repeat last year's performance of finishing runner-up.

Much will depend on how the club will fare with injuries and whether the new coach (when he arrives) will take too long to sort the side out.

The team should still provide plenty of goals (and value for money) and is a good bet for a place in the top six.

(5) Squad: Jeff Olver (1), Arthur McMillan (2), Jim Tansey (3), John Yzendoorn (4), Bob Provan (5), Jimmy Rooney (6), Theo Selemidis (7), Jim Campbell (8), Jamie Paton (9) George Pavlidis (10), Andy Bozikas (11), Charlie Yankos (12), Pat Bannon (14), Gary Cole (16), Yakka Banovic (23). To come: John Kiriakidis, Mike Micevski, Con Moulas.

CANBERRA

Canberra City defeated a smooth South Melbourne 2-1 in Canberra last Sunday in its last pre-season training match.

The match marked the debut of the Giampaolo—Valeri combination. They teamed up with Tony Brennan and Don McLaren to form Canberra's first four man forward line.

FORECAST

We have asked our correspondents to actually name the position where they tip their local clubs to finish.

Naturally, in some cases their tips clash.

I based my own tips on a personal assessment of the 14 teams and came up with this prognosis: 1. Marconi, 2. Sydney City, 3. Adelaide City, 4. Newcastle, 5. West Adelaide, 6. Heidelberg, 7. Canberra, 8. Leichhardt, 9. Brisbane City, 10. South Melbourne, 11. St.George, 12. Brisbane Lions, 13. Footscray, 14. Blacktown.

A.D.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE PSL

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE AUSTRALIA

THIS WEEK

ROUND 1

SUNDAY, MARCH 9.

Sth.Melb.	v	Heidelberg Utd.	Middle Park	3.00pm
West Adelaide	v	Newcastle KB	Hindmarsh	2.30pm
Sydney City	v	Marconi	Sports Ground	3.00pm
Blacktown City	v	St.George	Gabbie Stad.	3.00pm
Leichhardt	v	Adelaide City	Lambert Park	3.00pm
Brisbane City	v	Footscray	Perry Park	3.00pm
Canberra City	v	Brisbane Lions	Bruce Stadium	4.30pm

NEXT WEEK

ROUND 2
SATURDAY, MARCH 15.

Footscray	v	Canberra City	Middle Park	3.00pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 16.

Heidelberg Utd.	v	West Adelaide	Olympic Park	3.00pm
Brisbane Lions	v	South Melb.	Lions Stadium	3.00pm
Newcastle KB	v	Sydney City	Int.Sp.Centre	2.30pm
Marconi	v	Blacktown City	Marconi Stad.	3.00pm
St.George	v	Leichhardt	St.Geo. Stad.	3.00pm
Adelaide City	v	Brisbane City	Olympic Field	2.30pm

PAST RESULTS

	1977	1978	1979
South Melbourne v Heidelberg	1-1	1-1	0-1
West Adelaide v Newcastle	—	1-0	1-1
Sydney City v Marconi	2-4	0-0	0-4
Blacktown v St.George	—	—	—
Leichhardt v Adelaide City	—	—	1-1
Brisbane City v Footscray	1-3	3-0	2-1
Canberra v Brisbane Lions	1-2	2-1	1-2

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SYDNEY CITY

(1) The only departures, Trenter and Kershaw are more than counter-balanced by the arrival of Boden, the Spanos brothers and the return of Terry Smith.

The Brazilian youngsters, imported about a year ago, should be ready soon to challenge for team spots.

So the squad will definitely have greater depth — and a younger look.

Coach Eddie Thomson may decide to quit playing and will have to find his own replacement; don't be surprised if he opts for Barnes.

If Boden and Smith can develop an understanding up front, Sydney City will be again among the goals.

(2) The major change is the departure of long-time coach Gerry Chaldi and his replacement by Eddie Thomson, for the time being as player-coach — certainly a far from ideal situation.

On the management side Peter Russell has become fulltime with the club, taking some of the burden off manager Andrew Lederer and Harry Lakmaker.

The club's problems, however, are not simply organisational; they are at a loss to find a way of building up their support — or at least stopping the dangerous melting down.

President Frank Lowy is known to be worried about the club's future which, at present, is secured almost entirely through the prosperous social club and the various sponsorships, including Presto's.

Perhaps the shift to the face-lifted Marks Field will bring them luck — and crowd support — which this highly successful, patina-rich club deserves.

(3) Sydney City are traditionally slow starters; they seldom begin serious training before the middle of January.

While they don't worry too much about early results, these have been fairly impressive.

Kevin Mullen

The 6-3 win over West Adelaide was a good warning to those who are inclined not to take them too seriously.

Then came the 1-3 jolt against Blacktown...

(4) They could move up only one slot from last year — and this is within their capabilities even if Marconi do look the favorites for the title.

Tedious as it may seem the 1980 PSL could once again develop into a gigantic battle between this Sydney pair.

Sydney City will have to do a little better in their home games than they did last term but this is difficult unless the players see and feel the support on the terraces.

Overall, I expect them to finish second.

(5) Squad: Todd Clarke (1), Kevin Mullen (2), Eddie Thomson (3), Steve O'Connor (4), Ian Bruce (5), John Stevenson (6), Joe Watson (7), Murray Barnes (8), Ken Boden (9), Terry Smith (10), Adahilton Silva (11), John Spanos (12), Brett Woods (13), Gerardo Gomez (14), Chris Spanos (15), Jim Patikas (16), Marcos Silva (17), Ian Souness (18), Nelio Borges (19), Tony Pezzano (20), Jim Webber (21).

ADELAIDE CITY

(1) Working within a tight budget, Adelaide City have peddled softly on the transfer market for 1980.

Into the squad comes David Jones from West Adelaide, Vic Smythe and Romano Rossi from State League club Azzurri and Chris Manou from the Adelaide University club.

Gone from the 1979 squad are Chris Kent and Robert Marwe, while Jimbo Muir has been placed on the transfer list.

Muir may yet remain with City if a compromise in negotiations can be reached.

Manager-coach Rale Rasic is convinced that his squad will be stronger overall with Smythe, Jones and youngsters, Rossi, Manou, Charlie Villani and Luci Signore likely to play significant roles.

However, Villani and Signore have started the new year badly by sustaining injuries which will sideline both for several weeks.

(2) City's management and coaching set-up is still in the expert hands of ex-Socceroo supremo, Rale Rasic.

In the matter of financial support, however, Adelaide City seems again destined to suffer from the lack of a major sponsor.

Rasic would dearly have liked to have flexed the team's muscles against interstate opposition, but costs precluded bringing clubs to Adelaide for pre-season friendlies.

(3) Preparation was not all that perfectionist Rasic desired, but when they played West Adelaide in a trial recently, they left no doubt that they had reached the required level of fitness to start another exacting season.

(4) "Soccer World" posed the question direct to Rasic about his teams chances and was told: "We will finish in the top four."

John Nyskohus

The reply was firm, but one suspected that the smooth supremo really expects to better that forecast and to retain the Philips Cup as a bonus.

And they can do it and more.

The squad is talented and well prepared while the club is keen to climb high on the table — higher than their best placing so far, a 4th in the first season.

(5) Squad: Peter Marshall (1), Glenn Dods (2), David Jones (3), Bobby Russell (4), Bugsy Nyskohus (5), John Perin (6), Agenor Muniz (7), Brian Northcote (8), Dixie Deans (9), Johnny Nyskohus (10), Gary Marocchi (11), Sergio Melta (12), Vic Smythe (13), Charlie Villani (14), Luciano Signore (15), John Besir (16), Romano Rossi (17), Chris Manou (18), Jimbo Muir (19), Rick Migliaccio (20).

WEST ADELAIDE

(1) Feverish pre-season activities should ensure that West Adelaide has a stronger playing staff this year.

They started their 1980 ball rolling by acquiring former Israeli international Shraga Topaz (formerly Topolanski), who recently had his name changed by deed poll.

The 1978 Philips League champions also regained ex-Derby County player, Eric Carruthers from Leichhardt to bolster the mid-field.

And at press time West were expecting the arrival from Portugal of the "Black Pearl" Manecas, whose full name is, Manuel De Fereiro Lopez and who played in 1977 for Hakoah.

Also on the soon to arrive list is full-back, Carlos Villazon from Chile, although he is unlikely to hit Adelaide until about round five of the PSL season.

Lost from last year are, David Jones, who crossed the town to join Adelaide City, former Greek international Con Kambas, Graham Norris, Gordon McCulloch, John Batchelor and Sam Service.

(2) It's under new management for Westad this year with "Mr. Success", Gerry Chaldi, at the helm as full-time manager-coach.

He succeeds former Irish international Tom Forde and it is a touch of irony that he unwittingly selected Tom junior as a first team player without knowing that he was the ex-coach's offspring.

In the matter of financial support Westad have never been as flush as they begin the decade with the backing of Dominion Finance Corporation, which has pledged sponsorship of $40,000.

(3) Westad will start the new season adequately prepared thanks to the efforts of assistant coach and fitness expert, Peter Jaksa.

Ex-captain, Neil McGachey, who is on the comeback trail after suffering a broken leg last year, also assisted in pre-season training sessions.

Fact finding warm-up

John Boyle

games included a 3-6 loss to Sydney City and a 1-1 draw with Adelaide City.

(4) Any prediction on Westad's probable ranking must take into account the dedication and expertise of Gerry Chaldi.

Anyone prone to gambling seems assured of a winning bet if they wager on Westad finishing higher than their 1979 effort of seventh.

President, John Rex and vice-president, George Kotses will hear of nothing less than first place, but realistically one would, with the knowledge of the presence of Marconi and Sydney City, suggest third or fourth.

(5) Squad: Martyn Crook (1), Barry Reynolds (2), Vic Bozanic (3), Peter Tymczyszyn (4), Shraga Topaz (5), Eric Carruthers (6), Steve Atsalas (7), Manecas (8), John Kosmina (9), Graham Honeyman (10), Peter Boyle (11), Garie Dooley (12), Ian McGregor (13), Tom Forde (14), George Koulianos (15), Neil McGachey (16), Carlos Villazon (17), Aldo Lorenzoni (18), Brian Gale (20).

BRISBANE CITY

(1) City's squad would have to be deemed weaker than in 1979: gone are experienced PSL campaigners Pimblett, Echeverria and the vastly under-rated Campbell.

At the time of writing only Palinkas has been signed to replace this trio and it is hard to see Joe slotting quickly into the team's robust, straight forward style.

Probably Pimblett will be missed most of all as, despite the appearance of two "Johnny come lately" New Zealand midfielders, there is no apparent play-maker in the squad.

Another glaring weakness in past City squads still hasn't been cured although Martin Coe the ex-Hakoah and St.George 'keeper has been playing trials but has still not been signed.

There is, of course, the usual overseas contingent to be considered but no official news has been released of their arrival so they must be an unknown quantity when assessing the squad's potential.

(2) The club made tremendous strides forward at an administrative level in 1979 and most of their influential directors have remained.

Sponsorship has been secured through Stock Distilleries and work has started at the club's ground obviously with a view to playing their matches there.

Nereo Saftich is again in control at PSL level but in securing ex-Lion's supremo Gyula Vincze as Junior Director of Coaching and ex-player Horst Schneider as Colts coach it becomes obvious that the club is taking a long hard look at its formerly barren junior policy.

(3) The team's preparation has consisted of very hard physical conditioning while on the playing side they have contented themselves with participation in local pre-season competition against sub-PSL standard opposition.

They reached the final where they beat Grange Thistle last Sunday; in earlier games against Brisbane

Kim Wishart

Lions (2) and Canberra they have looked to be a shadow of last year's all conquering squad.

(4) It would be hard to imagine City's present squad bettering the achievements of 1979.

However, with the imponderables of new arrivals and their own brand of determination it could be they will once again cause a surprise.

My guess is a middle of the league position will be most likely and will also be acceptable to the deep thinkers within the club.

(5) Squad: Kim Wishart (1), George Potter (2), David Ratcliffe (3), Peter Tokesi (4), Steve Perry (5), Larry Gaffney (6), Joe Palinkas (7), Michael Tripp (8), Charlie Runje (9), Kevin Low (10), Kevin Caldwell (11), Barry Kelso (12), Mark Brusasco (13), John Coyne (16) (not yet signed), Billy Wilkinson (17), Martin Coe (20) (not yet signed).

NEWCASTLE KB UTD.

(1) A big question mark surrounds the ability of the attack to score vital goals. The unfortunate shoulder injury sustained by big striker Mark Trenter against Czechoslovakia has upset coach Alan Vest's pre-season plans.

Trenter came to Newcastle as part of the transfer deal which resulted in the movement of Ken Boden to Sydney City.

David Jones, who was a late recall to the Newcastle United squad, showed some degree of goal snatching ability with two excellent counters against the Czechs.

While the front line lacks the magic of Boden, the backline has been strengthened by the top class capture of Paul Reaney.

Reaney, in his mid-thirties looks extremely fit and even more importantly is eager to prove his worth to the side.

He takes over from 21-year-old Peter Willis, who has moved to Tasmania.

(2) The promotional skills of the club continue to set a fine example to other PSL sides.

The continued support of Tooth and Co. has been freely given and there is no doubt that the brewery people have stepped into an advertising bonanza with their sponsorship of KB United.

Coach Alan Vest remains at the helm for the third year, having piloted the side through two eventful years, particularly last season when a semi-final spot was a definite possibility throughout.

(3) Lack of a reserve grade or youth team handicapped Newcastle last year but this may be remedied by the introduction of a mid-week league under floodlights with seven other clubs in the Newcastle district.

Wallsend, Adamstown, Edgeworth Eagles, Weston Bears, Belmont -Swansea United and Stewart & Lloyds are members of the newly formed Northern NSW State League which also in-

Peter Tredinnick

corporates Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Tamworth and Grafton.

In order to give their supporters greater visual impact the mid-week eight team series has been mooted and looks certain to take place.

Already Newcastle United have played matches against Canberra City (in the Prime Minister's Cup), Brisbane Lions and Marconi and then went to Melbourne to meet State League side Croydon City.

(4) Given an injury free-season, coach Vest considers him team good enough to secure a semi-final position, which eluded the eager United last year.

But the question of whether the team has sufficient strength in reserve to meet the sticky situations which arise is still unanswered.

The signing of the Northern NSW Federation leading goalscorer David Kamasz from Edgeworth is interesting and he could force a place in the side early in the season.

(5) Squad: Phil Dando (1), Jim Preston (20), Paul Reaney (2), Neil Endacott (3), Bill Summerscales (5), Roy Drinkwater (6), John Sneddon (14), Colin Curran (15), Michael Boogaard (18), Brett Cowburn (4), Arno Bertogna (7), Joe Senkakski (12), Peter Tredinnick (16), Dave Deakin (8), Mark Trenter (9), Graham Heys (10), David Kamasz (11), David Jones (12).

LEICHHARDT

(1) Only time will tell how the personnel changes will influence the team's performances.

Gone are Rampanti, Reid, Carruthers and Turnbull while Vernon and Sammuels may also leave.

The arrival of O'Connor is a big plus but the real value of Bradley, McAusland and the yet to arrive McKee cannot be assessed.

Overall, Leichhardt has the appearance of a hard, no-nonsense team but may lack a touch of class.

(2) Former APIA player Willie Wallace was induced to leave his assistant managerial post with Dundee and return to Australia to take over Leichhardt fulltime.

This may end the rather unsettled coaching situation of 1979 which saw Jim Adam and then Ray Richards at the helm.

Former Daily Telegraph journalist Toni Raciti is the club's fulltime factotum, involved in administration, management, fund-raising and publicity.

But the man at the top is Sydney solicitor and businessman Nick Papallo under whose guidance the APIA club has again become consolidated, embarking on an exciting expansion scheme.

The team will return to Lambert Park this season — a definite plus in the balance.

(3) Leichhardt's preparations have been geared to produce an in-form team in March and later — hence some disappointing early results.

The draw with Blacktown and then the loss to St.George was a surprise only to those who didn't see the matches.

As of last week, Leichhardt appeared only partially fit, due no doubt to the late arrival of Wallace.

But within a week or so it may well be a different story especially as Wallace is likely to bring back the "old APIA"

Rod Skellern

style based on speed, aggression and verve.

(4) Last year the team finished 8th — and this is approximately what they seem capable of reaching again.

Only Phil O'Connor's signing represents a very solid gain so far (McAusland and Bradley have yet to prove their worth) while in quite a few positions the class of yesteryears is missing.

A great deal will depend on the form of Stone, Wilson, Butler and O'Connor who, apart from the brilliant goalie Woodhouse, form the nucleus.

These can pull the others with them to new heights — or can be dragged down to their own more modest level; one will see.

It would be a surprise to see Leichhardt make the top four or slip towards the bottom; I expect an 8th placing from them again.

(5) Squad: Greg Woodhouse (1), Barry Hoare (20), Rod Skellern (2), Bobby McGinn (3), John Bradley (4), Peter Wilson (5), Jim Dempsey (6), Terry Butler (7), Colin McAusland (8), Peter Stone (10), Phil O'Connor (11), Brian O'Connell (14), Rob Drews (15), Mark Pullen (16). To come: John McKie.

BRISBANE LIONS

(1) Lions' squad has altered somewhat since 1979 and with the alterations has come a new philosophy on and off the field.

Gone from the squad are Eddie Spearritt and Barrie Fairbrother, both experienced campaigners, and in their places are new PSL hopefuls Lindsay and Reid who, in trying to prove their worth, will give 150%.

Up front the two new Kiwis are a complete contrast in styles, the tall, elegant Verwey strolling around at a deceptive pace while McNaughton runs and tackles like a Centurion tank.

Lions can only better their 1979 performance; failure to do so will be disastrous, but under coach Carson there is much more fight, much more aggression and, perhaps most important, much more discipline than in former days which will make this an interesting campaign to follow.

Jim Hermiston

(2) At administrative level there have been big changes in the club: more directors have been added so that the work load generated by Lions huge organisation be spread.

The club's 12-acre complex, which they own, has received a huge facelift during the close season, some $90,000 having been spent already in spectator and player facility improvements.

Behind the PSL playing front a coaching organisation has been set up to speed up the teaching of the club's huge pool of youngsters.

Brisbane City's first PSL coach, Ian Kesson, has been engaged as Junior Director of Coaching with the brief to "make" PSL players. In this he is being aided by Roddy McKenzie and Mark Walker both top class players in their day and both fully qualified coaches.

(3) The team's usual preparation for the new season was altered greatly this year. Carson does all his preparation with a ball and although fair, is a strict disciplinarian.

Any player who does not shape up does not last long on his squad.

There is an air of urgency in the camp and in three trial matches against PSL class competition their record reads won two, drawn one.

The team has not played any lower class opposition and it is doubtful if they will at this late stage of preparation.

(4) Lions will have to finish higher than they did in 1979 as failure to do so will mean big changes, for this club will not accept second best for too long.

Potentially they are the financial giants of PSL with assets far outstripping those of their counterparts in other parts of Australia and now that they have "gone home" to their own ground it is only a matter of time before they use the liquidity and know-how to come up with the goods. Perhaps 1980 will be the first rung in the ladder.

(5) Squad: Nigel Lowndes (1), Tony Scanlon (20), Paul Ontong (2), Jim Hermiston (4), Colin Bennett (3), Alan Niven (5), Graham Wilson (9), Gerry Lindsay (6), Ron Millman (11), Mark McNaughton (22), Johan Verweij (8), Alan Hughes (?), Tom McGregor (15), John Ogden (10), Craig Low (16), Eddie Spearrit (7), Paul Sleight (12), John Lavalle (13), Ian Lawrie (14), Clark Anderson (17), Steve Hogg (21).

ST.GEORGE

(1) Very difficult to say; possibly, on paper anyway, weaker.

The Saints have lost a record 10 players since 1979 including such stalwarts as O'Connor, John and Robert O'Shea, Grosse, Della Picca, Harris and Hensman.

Even when one considers that they proved to be barely good enough to survive in the PSL last season, their combined experience will be missed.

The new signings have yet to prove their value. Disturbingly, too many come from State League clubs (Yamine, McIntosh, Griffith, Beggs, Fenoughty) and it's problematical whether they will slot into the team smoothly.

The Saints have not yet made any big new signing and are unlikely to do so, at least for the time being.

Tom Mihajlovic

(2) There has been no appreciable change in this respect.

The coach is still Raul Blanco and the manager Les Bordacs but the real power is firmly held by one or two directors.

Blanco, of course, is fulltime now but this is unlikely to make much difference to the first team where the players are strictly spare-timers.

The club's financial position is solid enough and just as well, because income from soccer will again be very modest indeed.

The splendid new stadium is getting more beautiful every day and one always has the feeling there that the Saints do deserve better support and a more successful team than they have been getting lately.

(3) Blanco has brought the team along patiently and quietly, hoping to reach a peak in March-April.

In January the team spent a week in camp near Bowral, laying the physical foundations for the season.

Since then they have been playing friendlies and trial matches where a number of players have been tested in various positions (Groome, Kay, Mihajlovic, Skeen, Yamine etc.).

Blanco understands modern soccer requirements and can be trusted to bring the maximum out of his squad — but the material may be a shade lightweight, especially with goalie Fraser sidelined.

Their best trial match result has been a 3-1 win over Leichhardt.

Last Sunday's 1-1 with a depleted Marconi showed that the Saints are putting their game together.

(4) I think the Saints will finish about the same as last year — at best in the 8th or 9th place, at worst near the bottom.

If I had to pick an actual number, I'd go for 11th.

A great deal will depend on a good start: five or six points in the first four matches would certainly put them into a good orbit.

But this, really, is unlikely, especially as it may take months for Blanco to rebuild a drastically changed team.

A bad season start, say over the first six rounds or so, could see the Saints repeat the 1979 hair-raising struggle.

(5) Squad: Mike Fraser (1), Don Smith (12), Nigel Groome (2), Peter Terry (3), Richard Yamine (4), Doug Utjesenovic (5), Rudi Gnavi (6), Paul Kay (7), John Davies (8), Peter Beggs (9), Peter Katholos (10), Roy Cotton (11), Mark Barton (13), Billy Griffith (14), Dave McIntosh (15), Tom Mihajlovic (16), Billy Bullock (17), Denis Duarte (18), Mick Dale (19), Nick Fenoughty (20). To come: Howard Hadley.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

(1) South Melbourne have been bolstered by the return of Billy Rogers and Arthur Xantopoulos from retirement and Frank Munro from injury.

Branko Buljevic has been added to the forward line at a cost of $15,000 and Steve Blair, a promising youngster from relegated State League club Albion Rovers, has been snapped up for virtually nothing.

Vince Bannon, a former PSL regular with Heidelberg who stepped down to State League club Frankston, has been secured and will add width to the attack by virtue of his frequent overlapping runs from fullback.

Alan Davidson and George Christopoulos have blossomed into full internationals and overall the side looks much stronger than last season.

(2) They have re-appointed coach John Margaritis and given him a two year contract — a great expression of trust after a wretched 1979 season.

He arrived at a stage last year when it was impossible to expect miracles so the club has done the right thing in standing by him.

His newly appointed assistant is Cedo Cirkovic, the former Footscray coach.

Cirkovic's main duty will be to look after the second division team but his experience would prove invaluable should Margaritis decide to call on it.

Sam Papasavas has been given a big vote of confidence in being retained as president and is likely to dedicate more time to the club now that he's not involved in the running of the League itself.

The club is well supported by a social club at its ground and is presently turning the building that housed the press until 1978 into a VIP room.

(3) South Melbourne faltered at their hardest test (Essendon 0-1) after plain sailing through the early rounds of the Ampol Cup (Croydon 4-0, Hakoah 2-0, Western Suburbs 2-0).

They overcame their biggest hoodoo by beating Heidelberg in a friendly recently and last weekend travelled to Canberra for another friendly.

George Campbell

On the whole the preparation has been good.

(4) South Melbourne will do a lot better than last season when they finished last.

The players at the club's disposal are capable of big things but the chemistry of a successful team has not been established yet.

Margaritis will have to settle on a combination soon and perhaps sell a couple of the big squad to avoid unrest.

A top half of the table position is well within the club's reach unless a disastrous start similar to last year occurs.

(5) Squad: Peter Laumets (1), Vince Bannon (2), Alan Davidson (3), Chris Kalafatidis (4), Frank Munro (5), Bill Rogers (6), Bertie Lutton (7), George Christopoulos (8), Duncan Cummings (9), Alun Evans (10), Branko Buljevic (11), Arthur Xantopoulos (12), Mendo Ristovski (13), Steve Blair (14), Kiri Kyriakoulis (15), Steve Kakantonis (16), George Campbell (17), Stuart Baxter (18), Steve Kyprios (19), Lou Tsigaris (20), Peter Scarlett (21), Sol Nicolaidis (22).

FOOTSCRAY

(1) Footscray has so far signed only one player — Chris Petrov from Metropolitan League club Park Rangers.

He made a satisfactory debut against Heidelberg in the Ampol Cup semi-final and will be in contention for the fullback position with Radoslav Jovicic.

Keeper Dennis Boland has been recalled after a loan period with South Melbourne and has been in excellent form during the Ampol Cup. He is likely to be the number one choice at present.

The club has failed to bolster its major weakness — the forward line — and is again likely to struggle to score goals.

Joe Palinkas has been sold to Brisbane City for $17,500 and his departure means that none of Footscray's front running trio of 1977 (which scored 36 goals) is left. The other two, Mendo Ristovski and Branko Buljevic are on South Melbourne's books.

The club is negotiating to sign a player from England and another from Yugoslavia and unless these two prove exceptional, the side must be considered weaker than last year.

(2) Footscray leave appointed former Yugal and Pan Hellenic forward Rocco Ilie as coach in place of Bobby McLachlan.

The 37-year-old Ilie returned to Australia recently after studying coaching for two years in Yugoslavia.

He has showed some prowess already by utilizing his limited resources to stretch Heidelberg to the limit in the Ampol Cup.

The club is likely to get a new home ground — the Western Oval, the hallowed home of Australian Rules club Footscray.

Zdravko Lujic

(3) All three Melbourne clubs have participated in the Victorian Ampol Cup for the first time. This has provided sparring partners in the early rounds and severe tests in the semis and final in which all three clubs failed to some extent.

(4) They have never finished above mid-table in the three seasons of PSL and are unlikely to better that record this year.

They are probably capable of a repeat performance because there are worse sides in the league, rather than due to any improvement in results.

(5) Squad: Dennis Boland (1), Igor Hazabent (2), Chris Petrov (3), Jim O'Reilly (4), Jim Kondarios (5), Slobodan Jovanovic (6), Dragan Vasic (7), Zoran Ilioski (8), Joe Picioane (9), Peter Ollerton (10), Zdravko Lujic (11), Mirko Rujevic (12), Radoslav Jovicic (13), Vlatko Belic (14), Paul Simic (16), Steve Potter (20). To come: Ivica Karic.

CANBERRA CITY

(1) The squad has more depth than in the previous season. Most importantly, Canberra has finally acquired a brace of quality forwards in Tony Brennan, Sebastian Giampaolo and Walter Valeri.

Competition for midfield berths will intensify as New Zealand international Duncan Cole and John O'Shea have joined the club, and can be expected to team up with players such as Terry Byrne, Isaac Farrell and Don McLaren. On the debit side, Ivan Gruicic has been traded to local side Croatia Deakin, John Davies has signed for St.George while Joe Arquero is rumoured to be leaving the ranks.

Robert and Michael O'Shea will add spice to the rivalry for defensive positions. Furthermore Harry Williams seems to be returning to form after a disastrous '79 season. With John Brown, a likely veteran reserve, a lineup of Roy Stark, Robert O'Shea, Danny Moulis and Mike Milovanovic would blend youth with experience.

Mike Milovanovic

(2) There has been little change in these aspects. The licensed club is thriving and the club is still receiving sponsorship from inaugural sponsor Brian Pollock Ford. The Board, however, has been forced to spend over $90,000 on just six players, and this figure well exceeds planned estimates.

The coaching staff is as last year. Both Victor Fernandez and Peter Vidovic the reserve team coach realise that they have a team of talent and that they will be relied upon to bring success to the Capital City.

(3) Wrangling over the Giampaolo—Valeri duo and the New Zealanders, Wilson and Cole have so far prevented Fernandez from fielding his most potent combination.

The team has defeated Wrest Point Rapid Hobart 5-2 in Hobart and drawn 1-1 in Canberra and lost 1-2 to Brisbane City in Queensland. Danny Moulis has been in Noumea while Isaac Farrell and Roy Stark have been injured or sick in recent weeks.

(4) Soccer is an unpredictable sport, but "on paper" the Canberra City team should improve on the 11th position achieved last year.

(5) Squad: Steve Hoszowski (1), Richard Wilson (20), Danny Moulis (2), Mike Milovanovic (3), John O'Shea (8), Robert O'Shea (4), Michael O'Shea (13), Harry Williams (5), Terry Byrne (6), Don MacLaren (7), Sebastian Giampaolo (9), Walter Valeri (10), Tony Brennan (11), Kenni Kawaleva (12), Isaac Farrell (14), Roy Stark (15), John Brown (16), Phil Reis (17), Alan Reis (22), Duncan Cole (18), Bernard Lustica (19), Luis Salgado (21).

BLACKTOWN CITY

(1) Blacktown is definitely stronger than last year, when they were in the State League and finished only fourth.

Quite a number of new players have been signed, some with PSL background: George Harris, Warren Turnbull and Bill Amey as well as some talented youngsters from Nepean, including Ian Hunter.

However, the squad still appears somewhat light for PSL standards.

(2) The set-up will be virtually the same as last season with the burden falling more heavily on coach Mick Jones and secretary Peter Thorne.

The club's modest resources will have to be fully stretched to keep a PSL squad battling through the season.

(3) The team's preparations have been capably handled by coach Mick Jones though the late arrival of some new faces and then the serious injury to George Harris have been disruptive.

Looking at the talent available to Jones, one tends to be gloomy about Blacktown's prospects in 1980.

The overall strength hardly looks above State League level and Jones will have to perform mini-miracles to rectify the absence of sheer class.

The experience will come from such steady campaigners as George Harris, Harding, Turnbull and Izatt while Hunter, Mike Harris, Don Campbell, Fisher and Dolton represent the youthful talent and potential.

Then there are the three Chilean señores, posing a question mark about their effectiveness in the PSL.

Ortega is perhaps the classiest of them but a trifle slow while Hormazabal, son of a former Chilean International star, often gets into trouble through his fiery temperament.

Alan Fisher

(4) Where is Blacktown likely to finish in the PSL?

Any other forecast than 14th and last would be kindly hypocrisy and an insult to the other clubs.

I think Mick Jones must feel, as we do, that his team will struggle most of the way.

Anything better than a 14th place would be a fine achievement; to finish above the relegation cut-off point would be sensational.

All one can do now is watch these brave pilgrims progress and wish them *more* than their fair share of *luck*.

(5) Squad: Bruce James (1), Peter Freeman (21), Mike Harris (20), Edward Pena (18), George Harris (2), Warren Turnbull (3), Barry Campbell (4), Cliff Pointer (5), Rick Hormazabal (6), Dave Harding (7), Carlos Ortega (8), Paul Wilkinson (9), Jimmy Izatt (10), Bill Amey (11), Ian Hunter 12), Steve Pollard (13), Alan Fisher (14), Neil Taylor (15), Don Campbell (16), Phil Dolton (17).

PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE

ALL-STAR ACTION OPENS NEW SEASON

The clash of the giants — Sydney City against Marconi — will launch the 1980 Philips League season on Sunday.

Through a strange twist in the draw, the two main contenders for championship honors will come to grips at the Sportsground in the very first round, with a win worth a theoretical "four points" in the encounter — two gained by one and two lost by the other.

A lot will depend on the freshness of the Marconi stars just back from Noumea and the fitness of the stay-home Prskalo and Jankovics, with Henderson definitely out of the race.

Sydney City are notoriously slow starters — but here they can't very well afford to relax.

If their newly-found Boden-Smith partnership works, as they hope it will, the Marconi defence will have quite a busy afternoon.

In another Sydney match, Leichhardt returns to Lambert Park to play hosts to Adelaide City and could be struggling for the points.

Adelaide City's season preparations appear more advanced while Leichhardt coach Willie Wallace is still trying to sort out some basic problems with his players.

Rale Rasic likes nothing better than chalking up a win in Sydney — against anybody — and here's his chance against a so far disappointing Leichhardt, unless the compact little ground can again inspire the players to produce that old APIA spirit.

The third Sydney encounter will be in the bush — but may be worth a trip.

Blacktown, newly promoted and stung by eulogies announcing their premature demise, will field guest star Bobby Charlton against St.George.

Although over 40 and clearly not in his 1966 World Cup winning shape, the experienced, polished Charlton may be still worth watching in action — 13 years after his brilliant tour here with Manchester United.

The Saints, almost completely rebuilt for 1980, look to be in better early form — but they can count on spirited opposition from the League's greenhorns.

Canberra fans are certain to turn up in droves to see their exciting new striking force of Brennan, Valeri and Giampaolo tear Lions to bits.

If this trio can blend quickly into a solid partnerhip, they may be the sensations of the League, rivalling the effectiveness of the Marconi speedsters.

Lions, according to the latest reports, are having problems to find their feet and would be extremely lucky to escape with a point.

West Adelaide's match against visiting Newcastle could turn out to be a thriller.

New Coach Gerry Chaldi is adamant that he will take the "Hindmarsh Rogues" back to the top while Newcastle pin their hopes on newly arrived Paul Reaney as well as the sudden maturity of youngsters Arno Bertogna and Peter Tredinnick.

Newcastle could easily cause a surprise if they play with the same fluency and daring as they did against Czechoslovakia.

Brisbane City v Footscray could be a dour struggle with neither having had a distinguished pre-season run.

Still, Brisbane City are usually knocked into shape by coach Nereo Saftich and if Footscray produce anything but their very best, they could make the long trip in vain.

The only match in Melbourne brings together the "Greek" twins, South Melbourne and Heidelberg.

Normally one would be tempted to favor an easy Heidelberg win — but their coaching crisis and the departure of Buljevic (switching to South Melbourne) may tip the scales.

South Melbourne, last year's reprieved wooden-spooners, surely know that defeat here could open up yet another horror stretch for them and will strive for at least a draw.

This, with the help of some new recruits and the fast developing Christopoulos, they should be able to achieve.

VIC. WHIPS "ERSATZ" NSW

— By Peter Desira —

Victorian soccer followers, normally fiercely caught up in interstate rivalry, stayed away in their droves last Sunday after finding out that NSW was being represented by a second string side for the prestigious encounter against Victoria — arguably the top state side in Australia at present.

The ones who did turn up were served with a match that lacked atmosphere and which was a foregone conclusion from the time Victoria hit the front after 31 minutes.

Croatia's Peter Mullen will probably have nightmares reliving this match for it was his mistake that provided Victoria the opening for a goal after the visitors had put up a seemingly unpenetrable defensive curtain for the opening half hour.

Mullen seemed well in control but missed the ball and Jamie Paton swooped to drive it home.

Mullen was again at fault four minutes later when Cole intercepted the centre-back's attempted back pass and chipped superbly over Peter Wilson for Victoria's second.

Bruno Cagalj, who prefers a defensive role, held his own well in midfield and provided a fair bit of drive but coach Leo Baumgartner must have thought otherwise because he replaced him at half time with Craig Hall.

But it wouldn't have mattered really because Victoria were 3-0 up within two minutes of the restart.

Paton scored the goal with a simple tap into an empty net after Tommy Cumming had done all the hard work robbing Mullen of possession on the right wing then squaring for Cole to centre low across the box just out of reach of Wilson.

Victorian coach Len McKendry, recently very keen on dead ball situations, saw his hard work finally bear fruit with the fourth goal which came from a corner kick situation.

Joe Tront's kick was headed down by Steve Kokoska for Jim Campbell to volley home.

Just before the end, Cole missed an easy chance heading over the bar with a free header after substitute Noel Mitten had rounded a defender and sent over a pin-point cross.

Whereas the result is another plus for McKendry, the game will probably sour relations between the two states.

It had taken 10 years for the two to stage a match and it won't be a surprise if it takes another decade before we see the next one.

DETAILS:

Goals: Victoria 4 (Paton 31st, 47th; Cole 35th, Campbell 69th) v New South Wales 0.
Victoria: Laumets, Tansey, Kokoska, Gardiner, Yzendoorn, Rooney, Campbell J., Tront, Cumming, Paton (Mitten 83rd), Cole.
NSW: Wilson, Thompson, McDonald, Mullen, Palmer, William, Cagalj (Hall 46th), Davis (Farrugia 52nd), Daley, Scott, Eaton.
Referee: Stewart Mellings.
Crowd: 2500.

YOUNG ROOS WIN OCEANIA TOURNEY IN NEW CALEDONIA

Australia won the Pacific Football tournament last Sunday, but not without receiving a scare or two in their 4-2 victory over Tahiti in the final.

Paul Kay gave Australia the best possible start when he scored after just four minutes.

Tahiti came back seven minutes later, however, with Andre Wabealo netting a shock equaliser.

The Australians settled down again minutes later when Danny Moulis chipped the ball over the stranded Tahitian goalkeeper.

The game looked all over in the 29th minute when a good passing movement between Ian Hunter and Paul Kay let Kay in for Australia's third goal.

But there was another shock in store for the confident Australians early in the second half.

Tahiti's captain Errol Bennett got clear of the tight-marking Australian defence to pull one back.

What could have turned into an embarrassing situation for Australia was quickly retrieved by skipper Eddie Krncevic, who put them 4-2 ahead.

In the heated closing minutes Tahiti's Francis Kenon was sent off for rough play.

In the third play-off New Caledonia beat Fiji 2-1. Fiji took the lead in the third minute through Mohammed Salim, but New Caledonia replied through Jean Xowi (36th minute) and Jacob Xowi.

Before the final, the Australians registered two more wins.

First they whipped Papua New Guinea 11-2 with goals by Sharne (4), Hunter (2), Krncevic (2), Moulis, Bozanic and Bertogna.

Australia was in clear command from start to finish against a weak opponent.

National coach Rudi Gutendorf was specially pleased with the performance of two of his "babes", freeback Christopoulos and Blacktown striker Ian Hunter.

The same day New Zealand went down to its second shock defeat losing an amazing 0-4 to Fiji.

With this defeat, the Kiwis lost all hopes for a final place in the tournament.

In their third match, the Aussies looked tired, jaded — and also vastly over confident.

The avalanche of their first two matches which produced 19 goals must have lulled them into a complacent stupor.

With a goal by Krncevic they did beat New Hebrides 1-0 — but it was a lacklustre display compared with the previous two fireworks.

The Australians were already sure of qualifying for the final.

Their winner came in the 27th minute when Eddie Krncevic rounded off a move started by Paul Kay.

The Australians were expected to cash in on their superior fitness in the second half, but despite fine play from Alan Davidson the New Hebrides defence withstood the pressure.

Adelaide

The final of the longest ever summer Ampol Cup which started on January 18 will be played this Friday.

The competition featured the top eight teams from the 1979 Rothmans League, playing four games a week, two on Monday and two on Friday.

Although successful in lots of ways, even the faithful supporter must have thought that it dragged on for too long, especially knowing that the winter season starts on April 12 and the same clubs plus, two more will have to compete.

Results from the double-header semifinals played on Monday night:
Elizabeth City v Enfield Victoria 0-1; Beograd Woodville v Cumberland United 3-1.

□ □ □

Adelaide City gave a lacklustre performance for its 2,000-plus supporters who went to Salisbury to see their 3-2 win over Azzurri in the last warm-up match on Sunday.

Philips continues

Philips Industries have agreed to continue their rich sponsorship of the Philips League.

Philips chairman Herman Huyer (pictured) and marketing executive Bob Collin are now hoping that the ASF will also deliver the goods — in the form of a suitable TV deal for the PSL matches.

NSW AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION

NOMINATIONS FOR

STATE COACHES

for the NSW under 13,14 and 15 State teams to be in the hands of the Secretary, R.A. Woods, 29 Yeramba Street, Turramurra, 2074 (Phone: 44 7069) by Friday, March 14, stating full qualifications and experience.
All qualified coaches are welcome to apply.

SYDNEY CITY SOCCER CLUB

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to play for the club's NSW Federation Youth League teams in the Under 14, 15 and 16 age groups.
Training every Tuesday and Thursday at Moore Park (next to Kippax Lake) from 6pm to 7.30pm.

For inquiries please ring George Varga, 427 4324 (after hours).

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PSL CLUBS STAND FIRM

The 14 PSL clubs last weekend decided to insist on the introduction of a national youth league in 1981.

They will ask the ASF to set up the framework of the league by August 1.

The same meeting also decided to —

- Reject an ASF recommendation to compel the PSL clubs to use at least one under-19 player in all matches;
- Disregard any punitive action the ASF may take (such as deduction of points etc.) against clubs not complying with the under-19 ruling;
- Insist on at least one seat on the ASF executive for a representative of the PSL clubs;
- Request one place on the new marketing committee to be established in conjunction with the West Nally Group;
- Reject an ASF suggestion to increase the PSL to 15 clubs next year, with the inclusion of Wollongong and insist that the League be for 14 teams — or 16.

CLUB MARCONI

Saturday at 7.30pm:

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STATE LEAGUE STARTS

OLYMPIC START ON LONG HAUL BACK

— By Paul James —

The first round of the NSW State League should produce some exciting games, if we can go by results in the Ampol Cup.

Bankstown and Arncliffe have shown they will not be "easy pickings" this year, and they both have the chance to prove their worth against top opposition.

Bankstown plays Melita at the Soccer Centre, and both teams will need a win to start off on the right foot.

One has the feeling they both could eventually be challenging for top four places so a win here would help either team's chances greatly.

Bankstown, with Davis and Daley up front are strong on the break, while Melita under Abonyi are re-forging their old style.

A close result, though on past results one would have to favour Melita.

Arncliffe and Sutherland meet at Seymour Shaw in another important battle.

The Scots, sick of their continual struggle, have built up a strong team for the season.

Ainslie, Luckett, Lee and Montgomery have proved their worth, and should continue to do so throughout the year.

Sutherland, with exciting youngsters like Bush, Holman, Woods, Tasker and Harrington, seem set to carry on where they left off last year.

Again I tip a close game, though I suspect something of a shock could be pulled off here.

The big guns of the League, Sydney Olympic take on the Grand Final winners from last year, Inter Monaro, in Canberra in their first round game.

The match will be played at the excellent Seiffert Oval, a venue which will suit both teams' ball playing skills.

Monaro, now definitely having parted company with Giampaolo and Valeri, will begin the search for more talent in the area to replace their ace strikers from 1978-79.

The present team is strong, but one has the feeling not strong enough to repeat past glories.

Olympic should win this one comfortably. They have talent to spare in all departments, with Housseini ruling midfield, and Eaton and Scott menacing up front.

Auburn, another team whose results one can never really predict, meet Avala at Knight Park.

Auburn, savagely canabalised by other clubs for players during the off season, have promoted several youngsters into the first grade side.

Paul Carter has been hailed by critics as a future mainstay of the side, and at 16 has plenty of time to develop along the lines of past stars of the club.

Avala started off the season well, with a 1-0 victory over Melita, but then also had a shock loss to NS Inter.

Always a team which can produce good displays, one still has to go for Auburn in this clash.

Champions Croatia meet Ku-ring-gai, whom they beat 4-1 in the Cup.

Croatia are still strong and anyone who writes them off as non-contenders will be in for a rude shock.

They are not about to let their hard-won triple crown be taken away by Olympic, or anybody, and will be out to prove they are still worthy kings.

Ku-ring-gai, remodelled by Frank Malone, seem to have a problem with an over abundance of older players, but they have been producing good results for the club.

The youngsters, Robertson, Smith, Geekie and Martin provide a good reserve of youth and Malone is obviously banking on them providing the legs for the older players' experience and skill.

An upset is unlikely, and Croatia should start their campaign with a win in 1980.

Fellow North siders Manly and North Sydney Inter clash at the carefully groomed Cromer Park in a match which, although not a glamour clash, should provide excitement.

Manly's great attribute is fitness, while Inter have a leaning towards more skilled soccer.

The Manly team, for so long the only representative of the North side of Sydney in top state soccer, now has two rivals in Inter and Ku-ring-gai.

Hopefully this will encourage more people to go and watch soccer in that area and force the clubs to provide better entertainment for the public.

In this clash I think the experience of Manly will win through and see them with two points at the end of the day.

In the last match, Parramatta plays Canterbury.

These two clubs, steeped in history with many great teams in the past, now have a new look about them.

Canterbury disappointed in the Cup. They invested in one of the State League's best forwards Craig Hall, but his talents alone weren't enough to see his new team through into the quarter finals of the Cup.

Parramatta, renowned for their fighting spirit last year, performed disastrously, losing all three group matches without scoring a goal.

Indeed, things don't look too good for them this year, and they may start off the season on a bad note after the clash with Canterbury.

CROATIA, OLYMPIC TO REACH FINAL

The semifinal draw for the Ampol Cup will produce two classic battles on Wednesday night.

Croatia meet Sutherland in the first game while Olympic and Bankstown will fight out the later encounter for the other place in the final.

Croatia and Sutherland have had several memorable clashes over the past three years, in league games and Grand Final encounters.

They are certain to provide exciting football and a great atmosphere.

Both teams will be composed of mainly young players with a sprinkling of older hands to lead the way.

It will be interesting to see if Sullivan does return for Croatia.

He and Watkiss are two of the great characters of the State League, while in both teams there are some future stars emerging.

Alex Kovacic, Tony Bush, Wayne Cootes, Ron Schumann are just a few.

It is hard to pick a winner here, though I feel Croatia is more of a unit than the new-look Sutherland and this may be the deciding factor.

In the other clash it would be a bad mistake to write off Bankstown.

They went through their group in the Ampol Cup undefeated and showed they have a strong, athletic team which can play tight, fast soccer.

Mark Davis and Denis Daley are shaping up as two excellent strikers and could pose problems for Olympic.

However, one has the feeling that Olympic, still smarting from their PSL relegation, are out to prove themselves, and would dearly love to win a trophy for the bare cupboard.

Their side is as strong — possibly stronger — than last year, and has the added ingredient of consistency.

They should win this match and go to the final in what would be their hour of glory.

— P. James

RADIO HOUR

Soccer in the west will get some sort of a publicity boost this season following an agreement by the local radio station to give the code equal time with rugby league.

Starting on March 26, Radio 2KA which broadcasts from its base in Penrith will give soccer time on Saturday mornings.

The station covers an area from the Blue Mountains to West of Parramatta where soccer, particularly the juniors, has a much bigger foothold than league.

The soccer segment which is expected to be about half an hour will be conducted by well known local soccer experts John Glynn, George Churchward and Denis Adrigan.

Occasionally there will be guest speakers on the show but the time will be mostly used for promotion of the game.

— C. Spiteri

NSW FEDERATION OFFICIAL PROGRAM

AMPOL CUP SEMIFINALS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, St.George Stadium

Sutherland v Croatia	7.15pm
Sydney Olympic v Bankstown	9.00pm

COCA-COLA BOTTLERS STATE LEAGUE

THIS WEEK

Monaro	v Olympic	Saturday, Seiffert Oval
Avala	v Auburn	Sunday, Knight Park
Sutherland	v Arncliffe	Sunday, Seymour Shaw
Croatia	v Ku-ring-gai	Sunday, King Tomislav
Manly	v North Sydney	Sunday, Cromer Park
Parramatta	v Cant.-M'ville	Sunday, Garside Park
Bankstown	v Melita	Sunday, Soccer Centre

DIVISION 1

Revesby	v Polonia	Sunday, Milperra Reserve
Yugal	v Penrith	Sunday, Concord Oval
Bathurst	v Sydney City	Sunday, Bathurst Show Gnd
Warringah	v Blacktown	Sunday, Graham Reserve
Marconi	v Leichhardt	Sunday, Marconi Oval
St.George	v Uni of NSW	Sunday, St.George Stadium
Belmore	v Wollongong	Sunday, Blick Oval
Bye:	v Blacktown Ud	

NEXT WEEK

ROUND 2, MARCH 15-16

Monaro	v Avala	Sunday, Marco Polo Oval
Melita	v Olympic	Sunday, Garside Park
Auburn	v Sutherland	Sunday, Seymour Shaw
Croatia	v Arncliffe	Sunday, King Tomislav
Ku-ring-gai	v Manly	Sunday, Parklands Oval
North Sydney	v Parramatta	Sunday, Soccer Centre
Cant.-M'ville	v Bankstown	Sunday, Arlington Oval
Penrith	v Revesby	Sunday, Cook Park
Polonia	v Bye	
Sydney City	v Yugal	Sunday, E.S.Marks Field
Blacktown C.	v Bathurst	Sunday, Gabbie Stadium
Leichhardt	v Warringah	Saturday, Lambert Park
Uni of NSW	v Marconi	Sunday, David Phillips Field
Wollongong	v St.George	Sunday, Berkely Sports Grd.
Blacktown Ud	v Belmore	Sunday, Francis Park

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Inter Monaro's Grand Final winning captain ALAN BOURKE seems even more estranged from the club than when last we mentioned his case. The two parties have been unable to agree on terms, and as no Sydney clubs have contacted Alan, it seems he may play in the local Canberra League this year.

ROVERS LEAD

In the first play-off for promotion to second division, West Ryde Rovers met Port Hacking at Rangers Road, last Saturday.

The 3-2 win by the Rovers has put them in the front seat of this play-off series.

The opening goal was scored by Glen Doyle for Port Hacking in the 10th minute wth Rovers equalising with a fine header from a corner by Jeff Warton in the 20th.

Port Hacking showed good midfield co-ordination during the first half which brought about their second goal by John Ross to lead 2-1.

West Ryde, from a second corner and another fine header by John Penkala equalised for a half time score of 2-2.

The Rovers scored the winning goal in the 75th minute after a fine cross by Ian Miller to David Matthews, in the best goal.

If the Rovers are able to give a more coherent performance next Saturday and defeat Campbelltown City, the vacant second division position will be filled and the final play-off match will not be necessary.

FEDERATION OF SOCCER CLUBS N.S.W.

AMPOL SCOREBOARD

BANKSTOWN 2(1)	WOLLONGONG 1(0)
Bankstown: Lachowicz, Thompson, Lembryk, Beater, G. Lynch, Wilson (Morrison 81m), Rootsey, Tansley, Peck, Daley, Davis.	**Wollongong:** Vardaroff, Trajcevski, Campbell, M. Terziovski, Talevski, I. Sattin (Vasques), H. Sattin, K. Dafkovski, Fontana, Bingham (L. Dafkovski 61m), Jiersa.

Goals: 1-0 Tansley (41m), 1-1 Jiersa (pen.60m), 2-1 Davis (68m).
Referee: D. Rennie; **Crowd:** 3486 (double header); **Caution:** Thompson.

Incessant attacking from Mark Davis and Denis Daley, and a well organised defence earned Bankstown a deserved semifinal berth in the Ampol Cup. While Wollongong held sway in midfield for most of the match, the two teams were fairly even. The game produced some entertaining football, with two contrasting styles. Whether the result would have been the same if Wollongong had used a third front runner, is arguable. However, this doesn't detract from Bankstown's excellent performance. After early pressure Davis set up Tansley with a neat flick header to ram in the first goal. John Lembryk gave Wollongong hope in the second period when he decked Harry Sattin after 60 minutes, enabling experienced penalty king David Jiersa to level the scores. Bankstown were to have the last word when Davis got the winner. — L. Waters

CROATIA 1(1)	AUBURN 0
Croatia: Watson, A. Kovacic, Mullen, Basic, Smith, Dudaric, Cagalj, Cootes (Muratovic 65m), Coleman, M. Kovacic, Pagano (Rezo 74m).	**Auburn:** Gisbourne, McCoy, Dobson, Fairclough, Carter, Cornett, McDonald, Prgomelja, McCranor (McCulloch 66m), Bertram, Ross (Field 46m).

Goal: 1-0 Smith (16m).
Referee: T. Davies; **Crowd:** 3486 (double header).

The result was in Croatia's keeping after replacement Auburn forward Jim Field squandered two chances in the first half. First Steve Watson got a hand to a weak lob shot, then later, when Field burst through past a static defence, he calmly placed the ball wide. Greg Smith showed the youngster how it should be done when he scored with one of his powerful — although too rare — 20-metre ground shots. Bruno Cagalj, Robbie Pagano and Marijan Kovacic all kept the pressure on for Croatia, but the Auburn defence held firm apart from that one mistake. Tony Basic, Kevin Coleman and Wayne Cootes were all creative. Cootes especially was a thorn in Auburn's side throughout the match. For Auburn the 'find' so far of the season must be 16-year-old Paul Carter — M. Renwick

WORLD NEWS

WATSON HAD ENOUGH OF GERMAN "SYSTEM"

Why did England international Dave Watson really quit the German club Bremen after the shortest possible honeymoon?

In an exclusive story in the London magazine "Shoot", Watson says, among other things:

"An article appeared in a German scandal sheet called Bild. One of my team-mates was complaining that although I had not trained all week because of injury, I was still in the team.

"The Germans have this incredible attitude. If you are injured and need treatment during the week, they believe you should not be included in the team.

"This article obviously didn't make me feel welcome, and it all came to a head the following week.

"It was the second game for Bremen, against Munich 1860. A clash with Munich's Hermann Bitz left us on the ground.

"Suddenly he got up and charged at me. I pushed him away and he dived to the ground, rolling around in agony. It was a great indictment of the standard of foreign refereeing that Herr Risse was taken in by this act and sent me off.

"Throughout my short stay in Germany, I was troubled by fluid on the left knee.

"The treatment I received was archaic. People automatically think of German efficiency, but the medical set-up at Werder was a joke.

"There were no medical facilities at the club. An injured player had to travel 15 miles to see the doctor, and after treatment was forced to report back to the trainer so that he could inform all the other players why had missed training.

"At Bremen, all the players knew exactly what everybody else was up to. Privacy was unheard of.

"After about three weeks of trekking backwards and forwards, I told the doctor that I wasn't going all the way back to the training ground just to satisfy the curiosity of the rest of the team. I had frequent clashes with the club over this.

"The final straw came during the last week of my suspension. On the Thursday before the game, I injured my right knee in training. I informed the club that I was unable to play because it would only aggravate an already serious injury.

"They told me I had to play even though the right knee was the size of a balloon, and the left had also swelled up again. They finally accepted I wasn't fit, but insisted I travelled with the club to the game.

"I flatly refused. Werder Bremen were the kind of club who would have thrown me my boots ten minutes before the kick-off and told me I was playing. I didn't go, the club fined me $4,000 and that was it."

AMPOL

England star Dave Watson: "Nein" to Germany.

...BUT KEEGAN IS GRATEFUL

Kevin Keegan's views on German soccer are strongly opposed to those of Dave Watson(see above.)

On the eve of his departure from Hamburg—scheduled for May—Keegan said he enjoyed his three years there.

"I have come to admire the Bundesliga and I have learned a great deal here," he said.

"It's quite possible that one day I'll return to German soccer."

Keegan was most complimentary to Hamburg coach Branko Zebec.

"I think I have become a better player under him," he said.

"I can express myself better now on the field, I am no longer worried about tight defensive markings and I can also read a game better.

"All this I've learned in the Bundesliga."

Keegan said he was going to Southampton largely because he wanted to become an integral part of the England team preparations for the next World Cup.

"Actually, I will lose heavily in wages by not going to Barcelona or Torino, perhaps another club."

After 1982, I may go to the USA—or back to Germany.

"But not to Hamburg, though. I am more attracted to the southern part of the country, such as Munich.

"I have made many friends here and had a really good time but I don't believe in returning to the same club again.

"This is the reason why I have decided against Liverpool."

Olympic tourney certain, says FIFA

The draw for this summer's Olympic Football tournament will take place in Moscow on Wednesday on schedule and a boycott would only give some teams a free ride into the next round, FIFA officials said this week in Zurich.

FIFA president Joao Havelange of Brazil told a news conference he would be in Moscow for the draw and would also visit the venues for the games.

"Olympic football will still go on despite politics", Havelange said.

"That is the view of FIFA and also my personal view."

FIFA secretary general Helmut Kaser said that if any nations went along with President Carter's call for a boycott in protest against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the FIFA would operate the same system as in Montreal four years ago.

Teams drawn against African countries who had walked out of the Olympic games football tournament there received a bye into the next round.

FIFA also announced that a total 96 countries have entered for the 1981 World Youth Soccer championship for players up to 19.

The final series takes place in Australia from October 3 to 18.

OVERSEAS BRIEFS

• Nottingham captain John McGovern said last week that British referees were the best in the world. He'll get on...

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• Sheffield United has an Argentinian, little known Pedro Verde (meaning Peter Green...) who joined them from the Spanish Alicante. United's other Argentinian Alejandro Sabella is one of the crowd favorites.

□ □ □

• Uruguay's "Little World Cup" (Mundialito) in December has fresh problems: England have already declined the invitation and now Brazil and Italy are also considering staying away from the centenary tourney.

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• Former Manchester United defender Tony Young, 27, has signed for non-League club Bangor City.

□ □ □

• Some 8,000 youngsters will compete in the World Youth tournament in Sweden from July 13-18; all participants must be between 10 and 18. Applications are also accepted from Australia: please contact Norman Redman, 3 Fitzalan Road., Littlehampton, Sussex, England, by April 15.

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• Antonio Rattin, the former Argentina star ("Animals," said Ramsey in 1966...) has become the manager of the famous Buenos Aires club Boca Juniors in the capital's Italian district. His predecessor, controversial "Toto" Lorenzo, has moved to rivals Racing Club — at $170,000 a year.

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• All the Olympic elimination matches must be finished by April 15; the draw for the finals will be made on May 15 in Moscow.

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• Corinthians, one of the most popular clubs in Brazil, will start the building of a new, 200,000 capacity stadium, based on the design of the Mexico City Estadio Olimpico.

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• The Paris monthly 'Onze' has polled its readers for the best players of all time and came up with this top six: 1. Pele, 2. Beckenbauer, 3. Cruyff, 4. Di Stefano, 5. Gerd Muller, 6. Puskas, Yachine and Keegan jointly. No doubt Di Stefano and Puskas suffered through the lack of TV exposure in their days.

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• Part of Keegan's new contract with Southampton is that after two years, they must let him go for only $200,000.

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• West Germany and Austria will meet in Munich on April 2 in a friendly match.

□ □ □

• In the past seven years alone, Manchester United have had 36 full internationals on their book: 11 from Scotland, 9 from England, 3 from Wales, 8 from Northern Ireland and 5 from Eire.

□ □ □

• Bobby Moore, former England captain, will open a coaching school for juniors, in partnership with Bill Shankly and Joe Mercer, two distinguished ex-managers.

□ □ □

• Journalists don't get paid for playing but soccer players do get paid for writing. Kevin Keegan's fee in Hamburg for one hour of autograph-signing is $6,000.

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• Milan's sports daily, "Gazetto dello Sport," has polled its readers to determine the best Italian player of the past 35 years and the result was Gianni Rivera, ahead of Sandro Mazzola.

□ □ □

• After July, no Austrian players will be allowed to leave the country until after the 1982 World Cup. National coach Karl Stotz (who played with FK Austria on their Australian tour in 1957), disagrees. "I'd let them go," he says. "They can learn a lot from the professional set-up of other countries."

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• Sao Paulo have established a new Brazilian transfer record, by paying $380,000 for Guarani's midfielder Campinas.

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• When Kevin Keegan told the German Press that he would be leaving Hamburg in June, a large crowd gathered outside his home and smashed up his Mercedes car. That's one way to induce him to stay...

□ □ □

• Tiny Portuguese first division club Estoril — the seaside resort which has been a refuge for deposed monarchs for half a century — has a classy-sounding attack: Eusebio, Torres and Simoes, all former Benfica aces from the great days of the 1960s.

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• Colo Colo of Santiago, Chile, at present under receivership, is seeking a generous sponsor willing to cough up $440,000 a year to pull them out of the red. Address on request...

□ □ □

• A referee in Spain has received a nine-week suspension — for beating up a player.

□ □ □

• Tibor Nyilasi, the Hungarian international of Ferencvaros who decided last October to retire at the age of 24, has changed his mind and will resume playing with his club. "My decision was wrong," Nyilasi commented.

□ □ □

• Hungary's Olympic team lost its last two friendly matches in Italy, 2-1 to Cagliari and 4-3 to Ascoli.

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• Argentina and Colombia have made the finals of the Moscow Olympic tournament from the South American zone. Brazil finished only fifth in the group of six.

□ □ □

• West Germany murdered Malta 8-0 in their last European Championship qualifying game. The previous time they met in Germany (Dortmund) in 1976 the result was also 8-0.

□ □ □

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